
CRISS+CROSS



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
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December 2016

Working together to connect people to Jesus

The Human Nature of Christ our Lord

“But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel’ (which means, God-with-us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.” -Matthew 1:20-25

Before Joseph knew the cause and reason for Mary’s pregnancy, he sought to treat her justly and with mercy. But God’s angel revealed to him the unique miracle of the Messiah’s conception by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph believes. And then Joseph acts upon his belief by fulfilling his God-given responsibilities. This is what faith in action looks like.

Ever since Adam and Eve, everyone has been begotten of a human father and born of a human mother – except Jesus. Although He was born of a human mother (the Virgin Mary), He was “adopted” not begotten by Joseph. In this way, Jesus was the “*Seed of the Woman*” as God promised in Genesis 3:15 (after Adam and Eve’s fall) and also the son of a virgin woman as God promised in Isaiah 7:14 (quoted in the text above by the Apostle Matthew).

Because Jesus was conceived in this unique way by the Holy Spirit, Jesus was not born with sin. Original sin – the guilt and sin that each of us inherits at birth – was not transmitted to Jesus at His birth. Instead, the child born of the Virgin Mary was a “*Holy One*” (Luke 1:37). And during His earthly life, Jesus did not sin, as John, Peter and Paul all confirm (John 8:46, 1 Peter 2:22, 2 Corinthians 5:21). In fact, Jesus was the first human being since Adam and Eve to be a true human being in the way that God intended for us to be – pure, holy and immortal.

We die as a consequence of our sins and our sinful nature. But sinless, immortal Jesus did not have to die. Yet that same pure and holy Jesus, in whom also “*the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily*” (Colossians 2:9), took upon His human nature the guilt of **our** sinful flesh, with all our weaknesses and corruption. So just as He said, “*No one takes My life from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.*” (John 10:18) So out of love for you and me, our Lord voluntarily died for our sins. It was for this purpose that the Son of God took on human flesh.

May our incarnate Lord Jesus Christ keep you in the one true faith now and forever,

• *Pastor Nickel*



Crossroads
December 3rd from
5-6pm

Holy Cross is hosting a once-a-month Saturday evening devotional experience. We praise God with some contemporary christian songs, meditate on the Word with a short devotion, and connect with others in God's love and peace. All are welcome! Mark your calendars for December 3rd at 5:00 PM, and please join us for this exciting new devotional experience. Please contact Samantha with any questions at samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com



Wednesday Evening Advent Services

6:00pm Dinner
7:15pm Hymn Sing
7:30pm Service

Wed Nov 30 Pilgrim Lutheran Church
44 Chapel Rd, Buffalo, NY 14217

Wed Dec 7 Holy Cross Lutheran Church
8900 Sheridan Drive Clarence, NY 14031

Wed Dec 14 St. Luke Lutheran Church
900 Maryvale Dr. Buffalo, NY 14225

Holy Cross Midweek Advent
Devotions

We will be having a weekly time of devotion at noon on Wednesdays for the Advent season.

December 7th
December 14th
December 21st

Please join us!

Youth Group

Join us for our bi-weekly youth group for Sr. High youth on Sunday nights from 5-6. Samantha will lead this new group on December 4th. We will meet in the upstairs of the Christian Center for games, the Word, and tons of fun!!! Please contact Samantha at samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com with any questions!



Holy Cross Christmas Services

We will have three services on
Christmas Eve

4:00pm, 7:00pm, & 10:00pm

We will have one service on Christmas Day 10:00am

AED's Arrive at Holy Cross

Per our voters' meeting, Holy Cross has purchased and received two new AED's for installation in both the church and in the Holy Cross Christian Center. And in case you are wondering, AED stands for "automated external defibrillator". Along with the AED's, about 15 of our members and friends received American Heart Association training in basic lifesaving CPR and AED usage. Many thanks to all who stepped forward to help protect the safety of our congregation, and a special thanks to Council Secretary Courtney West, who spearheaded the project through to completion. We pray that we never need to use these tools, but we also thank our Lord for providing us with these resources and the people willing to serve in this capacity, and trusting in His will for all.



He-Brews **NEXT Meeting Thursday** **December 15th 7:00pm**

He-Brews generally meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month, usually at 7:30 pm; at a member home or at a local restaurant. Watch the weekly announcements for the location. We do not stay out late as most have to work in the morning. A typical gathering starts with fellowship followed by a Christian video presentation and discussion. You do not need to drink beer to join us, other beverages both with and without alcohol are often enjoyed. All are welcome – including neighbors and friends, to come and see serious support given to fellow members and a willingness to help others and our church. He-Brews is open to all men, young and old.

Choir News

The Holy Cross Choir season has begun but we still have room for you! We will meet at the church on Tuesday nights at 7pm. If you are interested in joining please contact William Cook, our choir director, at 741-0040. Men's Choir rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays at 8pm. Contact Bill Cook for more information.



Sunday School We have had a fantastic time in Sunday School so far "Growing in Christ". We are

learning about our Savior, Jesus Christ as we get to the heart of the Bible and engage students to learn with age-appropriate discussions. Through crafts, games, and worship music your child will experience a hands-on way to learn and internalize Bible stories!

January Criss Cross **Deadline**

Please submit any items for the December Criss Cross **no later than December 13th**. Items may be left on the desk in the HCCC or in the secretary mailbox or may be emailed to holycrossclarence@gmail.com



Weather Related Closings

As we enter into the winter season it is good to remember that in the unlikely event of weather related closing, Holy Cross' closings and delays will be announced on WGRZ, Channel 2, and online at www.wgrz.com/closings



Praise Band News

The Praise Band meets Wednesdays at 6:00pm.



UPCOMING WORSHIP CALENDAR

Dec 4th	8:00 Divine Service 9:30 Christian Education Hour 11:00 Divine Service
Dec 11th	8:00 Divine Service 9:30 Christian Education Hour 11:00 Divine Service
Dec 18th	10:00am Sunday School Christmas Program
Dec 24th	Christmas Eve Services 4:00 pm 7:00 pm 10:00 pm
December 25th	10:00am Divine Service

YAM:

HCLC Young Adult Ministry will be gathering on December 18th @ 6:30 in K-Hall for a time of fellowship & fun. We don't often get to see one another, but being in town for the holidays has its benefits! Please join us for a good time as we hang out & decorate Christmas cookies! All young adults are welcome!

Update From Council

Bi-Annual Voters Meeting: Sunday **December 11th** after 2nd service will be our bi-annual voters meeting. Some of the highlights include approving the 2017 budget and voting in new council members. Please try to attend.

As we rapidly approach December, the Council's thoughts are turning to 2017 planning. First and foremost is who will serve on the 2017 Council? It should be noted that our current Vice-President, Sam Gugliuzza, and our Building and Grounds Manager, Paul Donnelly, are stepping down. They have both served on Council for many years and they now look to take a break from this service, (but they plan to serve the church in different areas). In addition to these known vacancies, all Council members except for our Treasurer, John Zachau, are up for re-election. (Treasurer and Financial Secretary serve two year terms.) With that in mind, all other Council Members are offering to serve again in 2017; however that should not stop anyone from running for any of the elected positions. The Council has identified potential candidates: Bob Hamp for Vice-President, and for Buildings and Grounds, Doug Garlapo, but anyone seeking to run for any of the open positions is invited to contact Pastor Nickel, or Nancy Cote for more information.

We will have our December Voters Meeting on Sunday, December 11th, immediately following the second service. Anyone who can't attend this meeting is invited to share their thoughts with any and all Council members at any time. During November, the Council will be developing the proposed 2017 budget, and we will send this out as soon as it is ready, so we can resolve questions, comments and concerns before the Voters meeting. And of course, the proposed "Benevolences for 2017" will be part of this budget review and approval process. In addition to our own housekeeping, we will vote on changes to the Constitution of the Synod, (posted on the bulletin board in Krampitz Hall), so please plan to attend this important annual meeting.

Thank you!!!

-Tom Marzano Council President



Year end offering donations: Please note that 2016 offering donations must be received by Sunday, December 25th (deposited to bank on Monday, December 26) to be counted for this calendar year. Any donations received after that will be processed the following Sunday, January 1st and count towards 2017. Please plan accordingly. Thank you. Susan Brooks



Christmas Caroling

Our youth will be caroling again this Christmas season! We will meet at holy cross on **December 11th at 3:00** after the voter's meeting. All youth grades 5 & up as well as families and friends are welcome to join us for this joyous event. No special music training required. We also need adults to drive; if you are interested in joining us, please sign up on the K-Hall bulletin board or talk to Samantha!

Operation Christmas

Child: Thank you to everyone for returning their boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Over 100 boxes were delivered this year!!! A special thank you to Connie Donnelly for all her hard work coordinating this wonderful mission project!



Do You like to Bake?

Hearts for the Homeless is partnering with the Buffalo Dream Center to hold a Christmas dinner for the area homeless people. Hearts goes into the community to transport people to the event. They are looking for 350 dozen cookies. Holy Cross would like to help provide some of the 350 dozen cookies. If you can make one or two dozen cookies please let Jill Carl know. There will be a signup sheet in Krampitz Hall. If you bring the cookies to church on Sunday Dec 18th Jill will transport them. Thank you !!

A big thank you to everyone who decorated our church for the upcoming Christmas and Advent church. It looks absolutely beautiful!!! A special thank you to Lindsey Gugliuzza for coordinating and all her hard work helping to make our church look so beautiful each Sunday!!!



Care-Ring Circle

To all the Care-Ringers who provide meals for those in need, Thank you! Until you have experienced the love and generosity from our Holy Cross family, you couldn't know how much it is appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering to make a meal for those in need please contact Doreen Borschel at 688-8096. I will add you to the list of volunteers in our email group.



Visitation Care

If you are or will be hospitalized or homebound and desire Christian care from the Holy Cross staff, please phone the church office at 634-2332 and/or email holycrossclarenc@gmail.com to let us know. Please do not assume that we know your situation because for many reasons we often don't. We will do our best to visit you, and if homebound, see that you receive communion.



Women's Bible Study Group

The Women's Bible Study Group meets on Tuesdays (except the 2nd Tuesday of the month) in the conference room of HCCC. We begin our social time at 9:30am with a study begin time of 9:45- to conclude about 11am. We are lay led, participants volunteer each week to facilitate a particular lesson. We also volunteer to bring "goodies" from our kitchens to go with our coffee.

This fall our Bible study is on the book of Joshua. Our study guide is titled: JOSHUA---"The Power of God's Promises" by Donald Baker. He writes: "The book of Joshua reads like an exciting novel--from the miraculous crossing of the Jordan to the crash of the walls of Jericho and the sun stopping in the sky. Through it all, we see God's faithfulness and power. Studying Joshua encourages us to persevere in our own daily battles, arming us with the powerful weapons we need-- God's promises".

For the month of December, we will complete the Joshua study. On the 6th., our lesson is titled: "Good Advice", from Joshua 23. On the 20th., we conclude with the lesson from Joshua 24: "Who Will Serve the Lord?". We also will have a cookie exchange and go out to lunch!

So join us whenever you are able! The coffee pot is on, sweet treats await to be tasted, but we need you to share the Word and fellowship with us. Remember, it is always good to begin the day in God's word!



Our December Servants

Communion Assistants: Jo Corneck & Joe Hughes Peter Olsen & Robert Diem

Ushers: Ron Talboys & Kelly Roeser Doug Hartley & Eleanor Stevenson

Lay Readers:

Dec 4:	Jill Carl	Sue Fay Allen
Dec 11:	Ann Craig	Wendy Shelton
Dec 18:	Sunday School Program No Readers	
Dec 24:	TBD	TBD Ann Craig
Dec 25:		TBD

Acolytes:

Dec 4:	Mason Kelkenberg	Lily Scarantine
Dec 11:	Christie Wood	David Hare
Dec 18:	Morgan Chalmers	Leah Roberts
Dec 24th:		TBD
Dec 25:		TBD

AV Team:

Dec 4:	Christopher Diem
Dec 11:	Bill Cook
Dec 18:	Scott Brooks
Dec 24:	TBD
Dec 25:	Madeline Olsen

Altar Guild:

Dec 4:	Connie Donnelly & Karen Langiewicz
Dec 11:	Pat Ludwig & Linda Cummings
Dec 18:	Helen Grinstead & Debbie Hamp
Dec 24:	Jo Corneck & Nancy Herdic Ann Craig & Sarah Craig
Dec 25:	Ann Craig & Sarah Craig



Heritage Home

Our regular visit to the Heritage Home would be right on Christmas Day. Our friends there will have family doings so the plan is to go January 1 instead at 10 a.m. The Tichys will accompany us with instruments as we Christmas carol. You are invited to come to add to the chorus of Christmas praise to our Lord that day. What a day of sharing with others the joy of Christmas is as we begin a new year. Christmas cookies are fun that day so bring some along. Alfrieda, Ron, Margaret



Women's Tea

(and coffee of course!)
On Saturday, December 3rd at 10:00 AM ladies of all ages are invited to join us in K-Hall for a time of fellowship over tea. Please bring your favorite tea cup to use and your classy conversation starters. Hope to see you all there!

LWML MITES I would like to collect your mite boxes through December 15th so I can send it in by the end of the year. Please see Nancy Herdic or put them in my mailbox.

December Birthdays

Kylie Zubrzycki 12/1

John Brunner 12/2

Jill Carl 12/4

PJ Donnelly 12/5

Matthew Weipert 12/5

Lillian Zubrzycki 12/5

Gordon Compo 12/9

Diana Overton 12/10

Nathan Grek 12/11

Samantha Brown 12/11

Clara Weber 12/11

Charles Fiegl 12/13

Elizabeth Handley 12/15

Vincent Pionessa 12/15

Alexander Hartley 12/16

Jennifer Dulaney 12/17

Aidyn Collins 12/20

Natalie Nickel 12/21

Charlie Wood 12/21

Marlene Heimenz 12/25

Louis Gugliuzza 12/26

Michael Kowarko 12/27

Nancy Cote' 12/30

Lindsay Gugliuzza 12/31